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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/226,577	01/07/1999	JACK CHANEY	SAMI,PAU.58	9866
23386 7590 10/03/2008 MYERS DAWES ANDRAS & SHERMAN, LLP 19900 MACARTHUR BLVD. SUITE 1150 IRVINE, CA 92612				
EXAMINER				
CALLAHAN, PAUL E				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
2137				
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
10/03/2008		PAPER		

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

# Office Action Summary

**Application No.**

09/226,577

**Applicant(s)**

CHANEY, JACK

**Examiner**

PAUL CALLAHAN

**Art Unit**

2137

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --**  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 July 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-8,10-14 and 44-47 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-7,14,44,45 and 47 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 8,10-13 and 46 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/C)
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_

**DETAILED ACTION**

1. Claims 1, 3-8, 10-14, and 44-47 are pending in the instant application and have been examined.

***Terminal Disclaimer***

2. The terminal disclaimer filed on 7-22-2008 disclaiming the terminal portion of any patent granted on this application which would extend beyond the expiration date of any Patent granted on US Application 10/856,171, now US Patent 7,403,617 has been reviewed and is accepted. The terminal disclaimer has been recorded.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101***

3. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

4. Claims 8, 10, 11, 13, and 46 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter.

Claim 8 is directed towards a system for copy-protecting a digital audio-visual signal. However, as per the Applicant's Specification at page 14 paragraph 4, the system may be embodied completely in software. In addition, as per the applicant's Specification at page 19 paragraphs 1 and 2, the software may be embodied in a storage medium that is a transmission medium, i.e., a carrier wave. Therefore, claim 8 may be considered to be directed towards non-statutory subject matter for two

reasons: firstly because the claim does not recite any limitation directed towards the software being embodied in a computer-readable storage medium, and secondly because the Applicant's Specification contemplates the use of storage medium that is a transmission medium or carrier wave. Since the claim does not positively recite any limitation that specifies the software as being embodied in a computer readable medium the claim sets forth only functional descriptive language and is non-statutory since this does not fall into one of the classes of invention eligible for the grant of a US patent. Unless embodied in a computer-readable medium the software in and of itself cannot be considered as a computer component, and hence cannot effect a change of state of a processor to produce a useful or tangible result. From 2106.01: Computer-Related Nonstatutory Subject Matter: *Descriptive material can be characterized as either "functional descriptive material" or "nonfunctional descriptive material." In this context, "functional descriptive material" consists of data structures and computer programs which impart functionality when employed as a computer component. (The definition of "data structure" is "a physical or logical relationship among data elements, designed to support specific data manipulation functions." The New IEEE Standard Dictionary of Electrical and Electronics Terms 308 (5th ed. 1993).) "Nonfunctional descriptive material" includes but is not limited to music, literary works, and a compilation or mere arrangement of data. Both types of "descriptive material" are nonstatutory when claimed as descriptive material per se, 33 F.3d at 1360, 31 USPQ2d at 1759. When functional descriptive material is recorded on some computer-readable medium, it becomes*

*structurally and functionally interrelated to the medium and will be statutory in most cases.*

Claims 10-13 and 46 are dependent on claim 8 but do not cure its deficiency. Therefore, these claims are rejected on the same basis as claim 8.

### ***Allowable Subject Matter***

5. Claims 1, 3-7, 14, 44, 45, and 47 are allowed.

### ***Conclusion***

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Paul E. Callahan whose telephone number is (571) 272-3869. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F from 9 to 5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, Emmanuel Moise, can be reached on (571) 272-3865. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is: (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should

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you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Paul Callahan/

9-28-2008

/Emmanuel L. Moise/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2137

**Application Number**

Application/Control No.

09/226,577

Examiner

PAUL CALLAHAN

Applicant(s)/Patent under  
Reexamination

CHANEY, JACK

Art Unit

2137